United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1212
25 August 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly adopts 28-power resolution urging Security Council to consider, "on urgent basis", taking further appropriate measures to end fighting and restore unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General says "international community has the right to expect" that resumed joint talks on 26 October result in overall framework agreement on Cyprus; proposes "alternative courses of action for resolving Cyprus problem", if agreement does not emerge in October.

+ Secretary-General, in London to attend International Conference on former Yugoslavia, describes his talks with British Prime Minister John Major as "extremely useful"; says Conference would create "a kind of continuous working group" which would give new momentum to efforts for peace.

+ "Important new information" on proscribed Iraqi programmes obtained during recent visit by inspection team, according to Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees seeks urgent resettlement of Somali refugees; Oman donates dates worth $3.2 million to Somali refugees in Kenya and Yemen.

+ Sixth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on Palestine question concludes in Geneva.

+ Subcommission recommends that General Assembly launch third decade to combat racism.

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The General Assembly, ending its two-day debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, today adopted a 28-power resolution urging the Security Council to consider, on an urgent basis, taking further appropriate measures, as provided in Chapter VII of the United Nations, to put an end to

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the fighting and restore the unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 136 in favour to one against (Yugoslavia), with five abstentions (Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Russian Federation).

By the resolution, the Assembly condemned the violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the massive violations of human rights and international law, in particular the abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing", and demanded that this practice be immediately brought to an end and that further steps be taken to stop the forcible displacement of population from and within the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Assembly demanded that units of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and elements of the Croatian Army now in Bosnia and Herzegovina be either withdrawn, subjected to the authority of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or disbanded and disarmed with their weapons placed under effective international monitoring.

Under another provision of the resolution, the Assembly demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) be granted immediate, unimpeded and continued access to all camps, prisons and other places of detention within the territory of former Yugoslavia and that all parties ensure complete safety and freedom of movement for the ICRC and otherwise facilitate such access.

The Assembly demanded the safe, unconditional and honourable repatriation of the refugees and deportees to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognized their right to receive reparation for their losses.

It also urged all parties and others concerned to take the necessary measures to secure the safety of the United Nations Protection Force and all other United Nations personnel and asked the Secretary-General to report to its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Urging the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to intensify their efforts to reach an overall framework agreement, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated that "the international community has the right to expect" that the resumed joint talks in New York on 26 October will result in such an agreement. If an agreement does not emerge in October, he said, then it will be necessary for the Security Council to consider "alternative courses of action for resolving the Cyprus problem".

In his report to the Security Council, dated 21 August, the Secretary-General further noted that "the strenuous effort" during the past three months had yielded some progress, "but did not achieve the goal that one could have expected". The set of ideas discussed during the talks, he wrote, particularly displaced persons and territorial adjustments, "has now been sufficiently developed" to enable the two sides to reach an early agreement.

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That goal could have been achieved, "had there been a greater degree of political will".

The Secretary-General reported further that on territorial adjustments, substantive discussions had taken place for the first time, "but the Turkish Cypriot side needs to show the necessary willingness to foresee an adjustment more or less in line with the suggestions embodied in the set of ideas", if the balance in the remainder of the set of ideas was to be maintained.

An annex to the Secretary-General's report describes the elements of the overall framework agreement, which will be submitted to the two communities in separate referendums within 30 days of its completion by the two leaders at a high-level international meeting. The overall agreement recognizes that Cyprus is the common home of the Greek Cypriot community and of the Turkish Cypriot community and acknowledges and ensures the political equality of the two communities. It will, when all its provisions contained in the transitional arrangements have been implemented, result in a "new partnership and a new constitution for Cyprus" that will govern the two communities on a federal basis that is "bi-communal as regards the constitutional aspects and bi-zonal as regards the territorial aspects". The agreement includes principles on territorial adjustments and displaced persons.

The proximity talks between the leaders of the two communities began on 18 June in New York. On 12 August, the parties held a series of joint meetings, and on 14 August, the Secretary-General suggested that the joint meetings enter a pause for reflexion and be reconvened on 26 October. Document S/24472

The Security Council is scheduled to hold consultations on Cyprus and Iraq tomorrow, which will be followed by two formal meetings on the two subjects.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who is in London to co-chair the International Conference on former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia beginning tomorrow, 26 August, met today on several occasions with British Prime Minister John Major to prepare for the Conference. The Secretary-General said through his Spokesman that the talks had been "extremely useful".

According a statement issued by the Spokesman, the Secretary-General has not only discussed the modalities of the Conference with the Prime Minister, but also the permanent institutions that would be created by the Conference and which would be set up in Geneva. The Secretary-General attached importance to the fact that those institutions would be permanent ones and that efforts to find a solution to the Yugoslav crisis would go on continuously even after the Conference.

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The Secretary-General also indicated that the Conference would aim to find a framework for a dialogue among all protagonists to the Yugoslav conflict, a United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents in New York today.

The three Under-Secretaries-General accompanying the Secretary-General in London -- Vladimir Petrovsky, Marrack Goulding and Jan Eliasson, and Ibrahima Fall, Director of the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, met with British officials at the Foreign Office to discuss final details of the Conference. The Secretary-General was scheduled to attend a dinner meeting hosted by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd this evening.

The Secretary-General today also held a meeting with Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to discuss UNHCR's role in the forthcoming humanitarian efforts for Yugoslavia and received a preliminary briefing from Mr. Eliasson on his mission to Iraq. Yesterday, Mr. Petrovsky presented a report to the Secretary-General on his mission to Libya.

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"Important new information" on proscribed Iraqi programmes has been obtained during a recent visit by an inspection team to investigate Iraq's ability indigenously to produce missile guidance and control systems, according to the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament today.

A press release issued by the Commission said the team had conducted intrusive inspections at eight sites from 7 to 18 August, using the full powers delegated to the Special Commission by the Security Council. The inspection team found no evidence that Iraq had the capability indigenously to produce complete guidance and control systems for ballistic missiles, nor were any weapons or key components prohibited under Security Council resolution 687, Section C.

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is urgently seeking resettlement opportunities for a fraction of the estimated 1 million Somali refugees scattered around the world. Unfortunately, according to the UNHCR, very few countries want them.

"Somali refugees are one of the most difficult groups to resettle", says Gary Troeller, Head of the UNHCR's resettlement unit, explaining that in Somalia, immigration criteria take precedence over protection and humanitarian concerns.

The fraction of the estimated 1 million Somali refugees scattered around the world that the UNHCR would like to see resettled first, are: seriously traumatized survivors of torture; those with severe war injuries who require immediate medical care and long term rehabilitation; and "women at risk", such as rape victims who will have difficulty reintegrating into Somali society even after peace return.

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As Somalis continue to flee at the rate of 1,000 per day, the UNHCR will need $94 million in 1992 to provide basic assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and north-west Somalia.

In a related development, Somali refugees in Yemen and Kenya, surviving on a diet unfamiliar to them, can now look forward to supplementing their food rations with dates -- a staple back home -- thanks to a $3.2 million donation of the fruit by the Government of Oman.

Oman, in its largest contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), announced it will ship 2,917 tons of dry dates to Kenya and 500 tons of the fruit to Yemen.

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The Sixth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on the question of Palestine, which concluded today in Geneva, has appealed to non-governmental groups in the region to identify specific actions that could influence policy and provide assistance and protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Opening yesterday the Symposium entitled "Working for Peace -- European Coordination", Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said that there was an urgent need for measures to decrease the continuing tension and violence in the region.

The purpose of the two-day Symposium is to heighten awareness of the facts relating to the question of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and to create a favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Following the Symposium, a three-day international meeting of non-governmental organizations on the theme of "Protection and Statehood", will be held in Geneva from 26 to 28 August. The meeting is formally known as the Ninth International Meeting on the Question of Palestine.

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The Subcomission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has recommended that the Commission on Human Rights advise the General Assembly to take appropriate steps to launch a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, to begin in 1993. The Subcommission took that action at its meeting in Geneva on Friday, 21 August, during which it also decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a thematic special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

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